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# American Journal of Philately.

*A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of Stamp Collectors.*

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Official organ of the National Philatelic Society of New York and of the Staten Island Philatelic Society of Staten Island.

Published by The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Limited, 18 E. 23d St., New York.  
JOHN N. LUFF, Editor.

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Fraudulent United States Stamps. In two recent numbers of this Journal there have appeared editorials deprecating the publication of descriptions of dangerous counterfeits. While these articles expressed the individual opinion of the editor, they had the full approval of the publishers. Our position in this matter appears to have been misunderstood, and the unwarranted assertion has been made that we desire to keep collectors in ignorance.

Our purpose is only to restrict the publication of details which may be of value to counterfeiters, and we appreciate the desirability of having collectors on their guard against spurious stamps. We wish now to utter a warning against some dangerous frauds which have recently appeared on the market. These pretend to be blocks of the United States imperforate issue of 1851. They are made by thinning cardboard proofs or by backing India paper proofs. It is not possible to say positively which method has been employed until we have an opportunity to remove the gum from some specimens. The paper, gum and colors are not those of the issued stamps and some of them are not printed from the original plates but from new plates made for the reprints of 1875. They are not, however, unfinished reprints.

So far we have only seen the 1c (type I), 10c and 12c of the 1851 issue and the Franklin Carrier stamp, but we should not be surprised to learn that proofs of other values of this and other series have been similarly manipulated. About a year ago a large number of sheets of cardboard proofs of United States stamps were offered for sale here, but found no purchaser. It was subsequently reported that they had been disposed of in Europe. As United States proofs are seldom seen except in the shape of single copies, it is not unreasonable to suppose that these new frauds came from fragments of those sheets. The lot of proofs included the four higher values of the 1869 issue and the four dollar values of the State Department with inverted centers. A word to the wise is sufficient.

If collectors have reason to suspect any recent purchases of stamps of the older issues of the United States, we will be pleased to examine them free of charge.

It is probable that, from time to time, we shall give warning of any new and dangerous counterfeits which come to our attention, but we do not promise to give elaborate descriptions of them.

Just as we are going to press we receive information from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, London, that similar fraudulent varieties of U. S. stamps are being offered there. So far only stamps of the issues of 1851-57 have been seen and, from the description, they apparently belong to the same lot as those which have appeared in this country. They are being offered for sale by an Armenian, who comes from Paris, and who is said to be about to sail for the United States. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons request us to warn collectors and dealers of his coming. We may add that, in the matter of describing counterfeits, they are in agreement with our publishers as to the inadvisability of doing so.

## Issues of the Danish West Indies.

By CRAWFORD CAPEN.

The stamps of this country have aroused more interest recently in the United States than those of almost any other country. Stamps of Danish posessions have always been favorites with collectors, as nothing has been done to disturb the absolute confidence felt in the value of the issues, on account of the integrity of those who have prepared and issued them. Reprints of Danish stamps have been made, but there have been none of the stamps of the Danish West Indies. The various series as issued, have followed the designs and methods of printing adopted for the stamps of Denmark, and now that the country is to become a United States possession, it is only natural that collectors should turn towards it with the greatest possible interest. The re-writing of our catalogue, made in the last number of this JOURNAL, was in accord with the result of a considerable study of the stamps, and the placing of them in order as a consequence of that study. We regret to have made the mistake of repeating the old designations of perforation. These are not correct. The 1879-96 issue should be marked perf. 14x13½ and the 1898-1901 issue should be marked perf. 12½. Some of the later stamps of the 1873-96 issues measure 13½ all-around in perforation. Such a difference, however, may be due to a shrinkage of the paper which varies considerably in the different issues.

The first stamps sent out to the Danish West Indies, which were of the original type of the Danish stamps, with the crown in the center, were of the value of three cents. The Catalogue for Advanced Collectors contains the following interesting note which will explain to collectors the reason for the variation in the gum so noticeable in the early stamps :

"The stamps of this issue are to be found with light and also very dark brown gum, the cause of which is as follows : In 1855 the authorities of St. Thomas received from the home government a package of postage stamps ; on its being opened it was discovered that the damp atmosphere of the ship's hold had caused the stamps to stick together. They had to be regummed, and a part was sent to a pharmacist of the name Riise at St. Croix, and the remainder to F. Beuzon another pharmacist at St. Croix ; the former used the purest gum arabic obtainable, while the latter used a gum of inferior quality; hence the difference in the color of the gum of these stamps."

The difference between this first printing and that of later issues is quite marked, not only in this matter of gum, but also in the shades of the ink used

The stamp with the original brown gum is not nearly as rare, in unused condition, as the one with the yellow gum. Cancelled, however, there is not so great a difference in the value. The cancellation on these stamps is almost invariably composed of six concentric circles, the small one in the center, being in a solid black color. This sometimes appears with an open center showing that the cancelling stamp was originally made in this way but, as would very naturally be the case, became filled with ink in the small center. The stamps are sometimes cancelled by a postmark only, and sometimes we find the postmark and circular cancellation also. The carmine shades of the first stamps gave place to a rose, varying somewhat in intensity, and having also in it a certain amount of carmine in some of the issues.

This was repeated in the perforated stamps which appeared in 1872. The three cent stamps, which are all that have been mentioned to the present time, have upon them what is known as a burelage, that is, another printing of fine parallel wavy lines in a different color from that of the stamp. These sometimes do not appear and, in the cases of some stamps, this over-printing is developed only by the use of chemicals or heat action. The burelage may be found on the three cent stamps, but it is not on the four cent blue stamp, which followed. This four cent blue stamp, issued in 1872 on account of the demand of the colony, is found perforate and also imperforate. Recently a number of specimens have been found part-perforate, but there has been considerable question as to whether they were not a variation of the imperforate stamps (probably printers waste) issued in the part-perforate form, with the idea of making an additional variety. The perforation of these four cent stamps is somewhat clearer and more decided than that of the three cent stamps. This may be the result of the difference in paper which in the four cent is of a thinner and more brittle character.

The stamps of new design of 1873-96 at first appeared on thin brittle paper, and also varied materially in color.

The earliest one cent stamp of this type was the one with a violet center. The catalogue price for this is placed at five dollars new and one dollar used, as unused specimens are exceedingly scarce, and cancelled ones are not common. The shades differ somewhat even in these violet shades, the earliest being quite pronounced, and the latest almost the same as the rose lilac which soon followed it. The cancellation upon this stamp with the violet center is frequently that of the old concentric circles which has been used in the Danish West Indies almost to the present time. The latest letters from there, that we have seen, are cancelled only with the postmark, while the earlier issues have both the cancelling mark and postmark. The fact that the stamps of the Danish West Indies were, at first, good only for postage to Denmark made it necessary, on old letters, to add stamps of the United States. If they were to be sent to this country, or stamps of other countries to which the letters were directed. These make the covers bearing the original stamps interesting, in the same way as those of the Hawaiian Islands, the Numerals of the latter country usually being found in connection with United States postage stamps.

The shades of the one cent stamp are more than those listed in our catalogue, but the six varieties that we have given, cover them as well as it was possible to do in a catalogue made for the use of the ordinary collector. It has been stated that the green and violet shades shade down to those of the rose lilac. These again, in some shades, approach very closely the red violet stamp issued later. The earliest stamps with claret center were ap-

parently issued in 1887, but the shade of these stamps varies somewhat from the late type which did not appear until 1892.

We are guided in the dates given, by selections made from a large number of dated stamps in our possession. It may be that we do not make these dates early enough, and if any of our readers have any specimens dates earlier than those we have ascribed to special issues, we shall be glad to see them. The brown red stamp followed the claret and first appeared in 1895. A slight variation in the amount of red in the ink changes the shade to a red brown. The first word in each is an adjective modifying the meaning of the second. Thus, in our brown red, the color is red of a brownish tinge. In our red brown the color is brown with a reddish tendency.

The three cent stamp, like the one cent, came, at first, upon this brittle paper, and the earliest shades are rose, varying from dark to light. This rose shade was followed by the three cent stamps with the lilac center and with a bright blue frame. The blue of the outer portion of the three cent stamp of the succeeding issue is much duller. It may be called a robbin's egg blue it is so near the light green. The center was red. This was followed by a carmine three cent stamp which, in varying shades, is continued to the present time. The dates, as nearly as we can discover them, are 1873 for the three cent dull blue and rose, 1861 for the three cent blue and lake, 1885 for the three cent dull blue and red and 1889 for the stamp with the carmine center.

The four cent stamp appeared first in dark brown and ultramarine. This soon gave way to the stamps with the bright blue center with a lighter brown frame, and the last issue in the earlier perforation was of a four cent stamp with a dull blue center.

We have not been able, to the present time, to determine the dates of these changes, not having secured enough cancelled copies showing the dates of use.

The five cent stamp had at first a dark gray center, and later an ordinary gray.

The seven cent in the earliest issues appeared with a deep yellow center, and later the stamps are of a pronounced orange shade. The yellow stamp is much scarcer than the orange, although, when this same stamp was surcharged, about an equal number of each shade appear to have been used, so that in the surcharged issue the varieties are both equally common.

The ten cent stamp came first with a black brown center and also an ordinary dark brown shade was used. The ten cent stamp presents a curious variety in the shape of a stamp having a period between the "t" and "s" of the word "cents." This period is found both in the stamp with the black brown and that with the ordinary brown center. It is not our custom, in the catalogue, to repeat a minor variety in connection with every shade noted, but it may usually be assumed that minor varieties are found in the different shades that are mentioned.

The twelve cent stamp of the different issues varies very little, the difference being mainly in the shade of the outer portion. The paper follows that in use for other stamps issued at the same time.

The fourteen cent lilac and green, comes upon the thin brittle paper of the early issue, and as most of those stamps were destroyed, it is the only stamp of the country that is likely to be increasingly scarce.

The fifty cent stamp is found in a bright and dull purple with numerous intermediate shades.

The surcharges which were made upon these stamps differ very little one

from another ; indeed, there are no marked varieties except the double surcharge on the one cent stamp. The surcharge ten cents was apparently made more frequently upon the fifty cent of the lighter shade, and really good shades of the bright purple having the ten cent surcharge are much scarcer than the same on the light or medium shades. There are no marked varieties in the later issue from 1898-1900. If there has been more than one printing the work has been done in such a way as to reproduce the original shades. The only marked difference that exist in the recent surcharges are found in the shape of the figure 2 in the 1902 and in the first 2 of the surcharge 2 on 3c.

This surcharged issue was exhausted soon after it was put on sale, although it is very likely, in view of the thrifty nature of the people of the Danish West Indies that there will be enough specimens to supply American collectors.



## Crete.

### STAMPS OF THE RUSSIAN COMMITTEE OF OCCUPATION.

A correspondent in Crete has furnished us copies of certain letters and official documents, relating to the provisional stamps issued in 1899 by the Russian Committee of Occupation, which we translate herewith :

Letter addressed by an English firm dealing in stamps to the Cretan Postal Administration, February 21st, 1902 :

"When \*Rettimo was occupied by the Russians, a set of so-called postage stamps in many varieties was issued there for sale, it is said by the Russian authorities, and large numbers of them have been sold to stamp collectors. Most of these are obliterated, but have not passed through the post on letters and the original gum is intact. From the very first we have considered these labels to be utterly spurious, that they were never issued for legitimate postal use, but that their origin is entirely speculative. These views are amply confirmed, in our opinion, by the fact that we have been offered these stamps by more than fifty people, and although we have asked each person to send us specimens on the entire envelope, legitimately used, not one has yet been produced. We think it is high time that stamp collectors should be acquainted with the true nature of these labels, and our object in writing to you is to ask if you personally have any knowledge of the facts attending the issue and sale of these stamps ; if not, could you obtain from a disinterested and reliable source the information we require ?

1. By whom were the stamps issued ?
2. What date were they issued, and how long were they on sale ?
3. Were they sold at the Post Office at Rettimo ; if not, where ?
4. For what purpose were they used ? If for postage, did they frank letters to any part of Crete ?
5. Who benefited by the sale of these stamps ?"

Reply of the Cretan Postal Administration to the letter from England of February 21st, 1902 :

"La Canée, 22/7 March, 1902.

Gentlemen :—

"I hand you herewith transcripts of the official orders of the day of the Russian Governor, Colonel Chiostak, concerning the creation of the postal service in the prefecture of Retimo and of postage stamps for use in that prefecture.

"These stamps were not available outside the jurisdiction of that prefecture. A letter, for example, from Rethymo to La Cané or to Candia could not be sent by means of these postage stamps, because in La Cané existed a mixed military occupation and in Candia an English military occupation.

"The sale of these stamps at Retimo commenced on the 1st May, 1899, and ended on the 12th July, 1899. A very small number were used for the

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\*Note.—We reproduce the different spellings of this word exactly as they are given in the various documents.

franking of letters exchanged between Retimo and the five or six villages in which had been previously established the so-called post offices.

"The Russian military authorities in creating these postage stamps had, it seems to me, the sole aim of procuring funds to assist in works of beneficence, the repair of damaged churches, etc. The majority of the stamps were sold to collectors, and the Russian officer in charge of the sale applied to the stamps, at the time of the sale, a cancellation in ink.

"The metallik equals five hundredths of a franc and a quarter."

Documents concerning the postage stamps of the Russian occupation of Rettimo.

ORDER OF THE DAY No. 26.

28 April, 1899.

"It is hereby brought to the knowledge of the inhabitants of the prefecture of Rettimo that a local provisional post has been instituted for service within this prefecture. This service will commence its functions on 1st May, 1899. The following villages are designated as postal stations : Roustica, Tighi, Amari, Spili, Mélembes, Agios-Galenes.

"The establishment of other postal stations will be announced later.

"For the collecting of the postal tax there have been placed in circulation postage stamps of the value of 1 and 2 metalliks.

"The tariff for ordinary letters is fixed at 2 metalliks, for registered letters and telegrams at 3 metalliks, and for newspapers (1 to 5 under the same wrapper) at 1 metallik.

"The postage stamps will be sold in the prefecture by the Bureau of Police from 9 to 11 A. M. and from 2 to 4 P. M.

"Correspondence not registered can be placed in letter boxes, which will be found at the Rue du Tzar, Rue du Prince and Place Scryolow."

(Signed) The Governor, CH. DE CHIOSTAK."

ORDER OF THE DAY No. 166.

Section 2.

30 June, 1899.

"On the institution of the provisional postal service for the interior of the department of Rettimo, it was necessary, because there are no lithographic establishments at Rettimo, to use three seals for printing by hand the postage stamps required by the service.

"The postage stamps made by hand were as follows, according to the report of the officer directing the postal service :

green of 1 metallik	10,440 pieces.
blue " 1 "	4,800 "
red " 2 "	1,200 "
black " 2 "	12,965 "

Of these there were sold :

green of 1 metallik	9,222 pieces.
blue " 1 "	4,800 "
red " 2 "	1,200 "
black " 2 "	11,675 "

A total value of 39,772 metalliks.

"There remain yet to be destroyed :

green of 1 metallik	1,218 pieces.
black " 2 "	1,290 "

"The printing by hand of these postage stamps proving very difficult, there were placed in use postage stamps of 1, 2 and 4 metalliks, lithographed at Athens in six different colors : red, blue, green, violet, orange and yellow. All these stamps were sold, yielding the sum of 41,160 metalliks as follows:

1 metallik,	980 pieces in 6 different colors,	5,880 metallik.
2 " "	980 " " 6 " " 11,600 "	
4 " "	980 " " 6 " " 23,500 "	

"As the postage stamps of this issue have also been exhausted, there has been ordered at Athens a second issue, which is now in use."

(Signed) The Governor, CH. DE CHIOTAK."

#### ORDER OF THE DAY NO. 168.

Section 5.

2 July, 1899.

"Yesterday, before the Commission designated by the order of the day No. 166 of 30th June, were destroyed the \*four stamps which had served for the printing of postage stamps by hand of the first issue ; also the stones from which were printed at Athens the two lithographic issues of stamps of the provisional postal service. There were also burnt the remaining postage stamps, 1,218 green made by hand and 1,290 black of the same provisional issue."

(Signed) The Governor, CH. DE CHIOTAK."

#### SUPPLEMENT.

12 July, 1899.

"To complete my order of the day No. 166, Section 2, I make known that there has been sold of the second issue (with stars) of postage stamps printed at Athens the following :

	1 metallik.	2 metallik.	1 piastre.
red	6,363	4,200	1,536
green	6,399	3,378	1,825
blue	6,960	4,864	1,440
violet	6,400	3,200	2,942

"There have been delivered to the Prefect of Rettimo :

blue	1 piastre	32,000 pieces.
red	2 metallik	12,000 "
green	1 "	2,944 "
violet	1 "	3,168 "

"The balance of the stamps not sold have been destroyed in the presence of Messrs. Svirsky, Captain ; Satow and Lelihof, Lieutenants ; Hadji Grigoraky, Russian Consul ; and Em. K. Sotirky."

(Signed) The Governor, CH. DE CHIOTAK."

\*NOTE.—It will be observed that the preceding document gave the number of these hand-stamps as three.

## An Interesting Essay.

By JOHN N. LUFF.

For some years I have had in my collection of United States stamps a three cents of the issue of 1861, which has attached to the back of the stamp two vertical strips of yellow paper, crossed by two horizontal strips. The strips are about two millimeters wide and are placed about eight millimeters apart each way. The ends of the strips taper almost to points. On looking carefully it is seen that this arrangement is not composed of separate strips, but that the whole has been cut with a die from one piece of paper. I have frequently been asked what was the purpose of this device, but could only give the unsatisfactory explanation which I received when I bought it, i.e., that it was some sort of a patented arrangement intended to keep the stamps from sticking together—which it obviously could not and did not do. I have seen the same thing in one or two other collections of United State stamps, but the owners were no better informed than I as to its meaning.

A few days ago Mr. H. E. Deats sent me four envelopes, saying he thought that they might interest me, which they did, as I found in them the long-sought explanation of my oddity. As I think it may also be of some interest to others, I will describe these envelopes:

In the upper right corner of each envelope an opening, either oval or rectangular, has been cut with a die. The paper has not been entirely removed from within these openings, a small part of the original material, arranged in some fanciful device, having been spared by the die. This was attached at several places (usually four) to the sides of the opening. The points of juncture were so small that the connections could be severed almost without effort. One of the designs left by the die was diamond shaped, touching the surrounding rectangle at the four points; another had in the center a small oval, around which were four ornaments of triangular shape connecting it with the edges of the oval opening.

The intention of all this was that, a letter being enclosed in the envelope, the stamp should be affixed in the opening, over the fanciful device and adhering to the letter behind it. By this means the letter and envelope were fastened together and the former could not be removed without destroying the latter. Enclosed in one of the letters was a circular explaining the purpose and merits of this device. It reads as follows:

### "STAMP SEALING AND POSTMARK PRESERVING ENVELOPE."

By the use of the ordinary envelope we lose the advantage of preserving upon the letter itself the *Post Mark* and *Postage Stamp*, which are generally thrown aside with the unattached envelope, and it is also difficult to identify the letter and envelope as belonging together, after they have once been separated.

We have prepared an envelope with one or more openings, through which, by the use of the postage stamp, the letter and envelope are sealed fast together, and when the letter is removed from the envelope, the *postage stamp* and any *post mark* placed thereon remain adhering to the letter.

We claim that the following advantages must arise from the general use of this or a similar system of envelopes, provided the Post Office Department sanctions it, so far as to print a clear and distinct post mark on such Postage Stamp, or if preferred, directly on the letter, through an additional opening, made especially for that purpose.

**FIRST.**—Sealing the letter independent of the envelope by the stamp, thus making the operation of stamping the most perfect security for the sealing; and the stamps having to be put on the front of the letter before it can be sent, this sealing is not liable to be neglected.

**SECOND.**—Sealing the letter and envelope fast together, and thus increasing the difficulty of substituting envelopes, or of removing the enclosure, either by violence or from neglect of sealing, or from bursting, in consequence of bad gumming.

**THIRD.**—Securing to the Government the destruction of the stamp in opening the letter, or its general preservation thereon.

**FOURTH.**—Defining the location of the stamp on the letter, and this in the most convenient position for the post office mark.

**FIFTH.**—Securing on the letter itself the legal evidence of the time and place of mailing, and giving information as to the Post Office and State from which the letter is sent.

**SIXTH.**—Preserving an evidence of the action of the Post Office in regard to the punctual mailing of letters.

**SEVENTH.**—Supplying by the public stamp any private deficiency in the neglect of dating the letter.

An envelope affording all these advantages can be furnished at a very little, if any additional cost, and it is quite probable that if one were adopted which depended exclusively on the stamp for sealing, it might be produced much cheaper than if made in the ordinary way.

LEEDS & VAUX,  
110 Broadway, New York.

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**Extract from the *Commercial Bulletin*, of Boston, November 30th, 1861:**

"At a recent meeting of the Newcastle (Eng.) Chamber of Commerce, a communication was read from Glasgow, calling attention to the inconvenience arising from the use of envelopes in commercial communications, from the difficulty of proving dates of postal and delivery of letters, and urging the desirability that the post marks should always appear on the letters themselves. The Chamber expressed the opinion, that in business letters it would be much better to avoid the use of envelopes."

Of the four envelopes sent me by Mr. Deats all but one had been opened. The act of opening them left the stamp and the die-cut device attached to the letter. The cancellation appears partly on the stamp and partly on the letter. In one instance a second opening has been provided to permit the dated postmark to be stamped on the letter, instead of on the envelope. Most of the cancellations appear to be of a private nature and not those employed by the government. One of them, as well as the copy in my possession, appear to be regularly postmarked, from which it may be inferred that at least a few of the envelopes were passed through the post. Three of the envelopes have a row of perforations across one end, apparently intended to facilitate opening them.



## Facts in Reference to the Alabama Tax on Seals Stamps.

At the November session of the Legislature of Alabama, 1868, an act was passed providing for the revenue of the State (see Acts of Alabama, 1868, Page 297), and in Section 121 of this act is provided for the use of adhesive stamps as follows:

That it shall be the duty of the Auditor to furnish the Treasurer with a supply of adhesive stamps, of the denomination of one dollar and two dollars each, to be printed in separate colors, similar to those used by the United States, and to bear an appropriate device and the words "State of Alabama, Tax on Seals, One Dollar", or Two Dollars, as the case may be: Provided however, that any officer purchasing stamps as aforesaid in the aggregate amount of \$50 and upwards, at any one time, shall be allowed a deduction of 5 per cent.

Section 122 of this Act provides: That it shall be the duty of each Notary Public, Probate Judge, Commissioners for other States, Clerks of Circuit Court, Clerk of City Court, Registers in Chancery, or other public officer that may be required to employ a seal by the laws of the State, officiating within the limits of the State, to affix one adhesive stamp of the value of one dollar upon each official impress of such seal of such Notary, etc., and shall proceed to cancel the same by writing or stamping his signature and date across the face of said stamp. Provided that stamps shall not be required on claims of discharged soldiers or pension or arrangements of pay or bounty from the United States.

Section 123 of this Act provides, That the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Alabama, Auditor and Secretary of State, shall affix one adhesive stamp of the value of two dollars upon each official imprint of the seal of such officers, and to cancel the same as above provided.

This Act also provided that any instrument requiring a stamp was void without a stamp affixed as required by law, and could not be introduced in a court of law as evidence.

This Act was amended Dec. 15, 1876, to allow affidavits of parties making a homestead entry under act of Congress approved May 20, 1862, without a stamp.

This Act of November, 1868, and the amendment thereto, was incorporated in the Code of Alabama as Sections 518, 519, 520 and was repealed in 1884: (see Acts of 1884-5, page 13.)

Under the law all affidavits made before any officer using a seal, such as notaries public, commissioners of other states, judges of probate clerks of courts of record and registers in Chancery, and all acknowledgements of mortgages or deeds made before such officers using their seal, had to have affixed a one dollar tax stamp on the seal.

And all papers issued out of the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Auditor and Sec'y of State of Alabama, where the seal was used, had to have a two dollar tax on seal affixed.

Now, as I understand from this law, such officers could take affidavits and acknowledgements without using their seal and not have to use a stamp.

I have seen the one dollar tax on seal used on affidavits and acknowledgements, and the two dollar tax on seal used on official commissions of the officers of the state such as Notary Publics, Justice of the Peace, Judge of

Probate, in fact all officers where there was a commission issued to them; also the certificate of the Auditor that the insurance companies had complied with the provisions of law in filing a statement of their assets with the Auditor.

We are indebted to Mr. R. S. Nelson for the foregoing extract from the laws of the State of Alabama and account of the use of the stamps.

## The Chemist's Commando Stamps.

A DESCRIPTION AND A JUSTIFICATION FROM THE PEN OF THE CHEMIST HIMSELF.

From *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*.

In Stanley Gibbons' Addenda to the Stamps of the British Empire, part I of November, 1900, under the heading "Orange River Colony" on page 8, occurs the following remark :

"A type-set oblong stamp inscribed 'Commando-Brief-O. V. S—Franko'; in black on yellow, which is being offered as a war stamp, is really the private speculation of a chemist in the Orange Free State, who had them made and sent to the front and attached to letters, hence they are seen duly postmarked on genuine correspondence. As, however, all such letters were post free, the stamp was superfluous, had no franking power, and is of no philatelic interest whatever."

The present writer is the chemist referred to in the above paragraph.

For the information of Messrs. S. G. & Co. as well as all genuine collectors of stamps, the undersigned feels himself called upon to set forth the following facts, leaving collectors to judge for themselves as to the eligibility or otherwise of the stamp referred to in question to be included in their collections.

The commandoes of the Boer Republics, as is well-known, crossed the border of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope during the night of the 14th to the 15th October, 1899, at a place called "Scholy's Nek" not far from Kimberley. The commandoes altogether numbered about 3,000 men at that time. A temporary camp was pitched and communication with the capital of the O. F. S. at once established. Mails were duly received and dispatched.

The writer was appointed field-postmaster of the forces serving under General Delakey and Chief Commandant Wessels. At the commencement, that is to say, the first few days, all letters sent by the burghers at the front to their friends or relatives, had to be initialled either by the field-cornets or the commandants.

To save the individual burgher the trouble of having his letter initialled, a collecting box or bag was placed in a conspicuous place at each camp and the box or bag was duly emptied before the departure of each mail. The letters were taken to the tent of the field-cornet or commandant and duly initialled.

When, however, the correspondence became of larger dimensions, the

officers mentioned declined to sit for hours and hours initialing letters. A proposal was made to the chief commandant to authorize the issue of stamps, which were to be affixed at the field post office on all letters found in the collecting boxes and bags, and thus save himself and all other officers concerned, the trouble of initialing such letters.

The stamps were ordered to be printed by Acting Commandant General Barend Greylings and came into use on the 15th October, 1899. Upon the closer investment of Kimberley the Commandoes drew into closer touch, and the stamps were largely used for the mails of the burghers around Kimberley. Therefore the postmarks generally found on the stamps are either Spijtfontein, Modder River, Barkley East, or an India-rubber stamp "Kimberley, Z. A. R."

It will be seen from the above that the stamps are of official origin and were used to prove that the letters to which they were affixed came from the seat of war and were therefore not subject to any fines, which letters without postage stamps are subject to. They therefore were meant to frank the letters also.

As during the war the burghers were frequently moved from one place to the other it happened that the stamps were taken to other parts and we therefore find copies of these stamps postmarked Dundee, Elandslaagte, Daunhauser, Glencoe, Hoofd Lager Z. A. R. (in Natal); also copies marked with obliterations of post offices in the Cape of Good Hope and naturally nearly all offices of the Orange Free State and a good few of the South African Republic. The stamps have in fact been put to use in nearly all camps of the Republics.

They were still in use after the departure of the writer from the front, during the months of February and the beginning of March, 1900. When General Cronje surrendered, several British officers found in that officer's camp unused copies of the "Commando stamps." Upon the arrival of Lord Roberts' column at Bloemfontein, earnest collectors soon tried to obtain a copy or two of these interesting relics. Postmarked copies were fetching as much as twenty-five shillings, and more; one well-known English collector went even so far as to try to collect a complete set of postmarks of all offices where the stamps had been used. To the writer's knowledge, he obtained as many as 19 different offices! Besides the ordinary dating stamp, an obliterating stamp similar to the British parcel obliterating stamp, was used; but with the difference that only three bars above and below the number, instead of four, three small almost square blanks to the right and left of the number, instead of two perpendicular strokes. The number itself, 252, was enclosed by four lines, forming a border.

In conclusion, it may be stated that a number of these stamps reached Europe during the early stages of the war, whilst the Boers were still able to communicate with the world via Delagoa Bay. As no ordinary postage stamps were sold from the Field Post Office, all letters posted with a commando stamp only were fined, if their destination was Europe; but were duly forwarded.

Fine postmarked copies in the original orange-yellow color are rare, but the stamps suffer greatly by exposure to the light, or by immersion in water.

The stamps were printed in sheets of twenty-four rows of five stamps each.

A. F. HOCHAPFEL.

## The Reprinted Laureates of New South Wales.

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From *The London Philatelist*.

The widespread interest, not to say dismay, created a few years back by the appearance of entire sheets of Jervis' Laureated Heads is little likely to pass from the memory of the present generation of collectors. A peculiar feature of the case was the mysterious flittings of some of the principal actors in the drama, one of them, Mr. Dawson A. Vindin; appearing in the Metropolis for a short time, and another, Mr. A. van Dyck, vanishing apparently into thin air. The latter gentleman, who was a most astute Philatelist, will be remembered as having held the finest collection of used Sydneys ever got together by any man or any means, and it is a thousand pities that it was not secured and preserved intact as a real "thing of beauty" in Sydney Views. That Mr. van Dyck is, however, still in the flesh was clearly demonstrated by the examination of one of the lots at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's last sale. The lot in question consisted of two sheets of the 8d, Laureated, printed in blue, one being clearly that reprinted at the same time as the other values, in a very pale clear shade, and the other undoubtedly a proof-sheet in a full, rich color on old toned paper, specimens of which were occasionally met with by collectors of a couple decades since. Accompanying the lot, and sold with it, was the following interesting letter, which we insert with the conviction that it will waken up old memories and associations in the minds of many of our readers :

"I certify that the annexed sheet of stamps—a sheet of fifty stamps of eight pence, printed in blue, of the Laureated series of New South Wales—is the sheet which formed part of my famous collection of the stamps of New South Wales, but which was taken out of the collection previous to the collection being shown by me at the London Philatelic Society in November, 1888. I also certify that it is the original sheet which served as pattern to print the reprinted sheets of eight pence, blue, but from which it can easily be distinguished and with which it cannot be confused, as the color of the impression and also the color and texture of the paper are different in the reprints. I further certify that it is one of the two sheets (the other was a sheet printed in yellow) which were found in 1887 at the Colonial Secretary's Office in Sydney, together with the copper plate engraved by H. C. Jervis and a note in the handwriting of James Raymond, Postmaster-General of New South Wales, saying, 'If new plate has not arrived from London by end of the month, plate should be sent to Clayton to be made sharper.—J. R.'

"As it has been said that the reprinted Laureated had been sold by me as genuine originals, to put a stop to all future misrepresentations on the subject I shall simply say that had they been originals *each of these stamps would have been worth pounds*; and as the two pence with stars and the six pence were sold by me *at face value*, and the eight pence, orange or yellow, *at double face value*, the price at which I sold them is proof enough that I sold the stamps as reprints.

"The copper plates of the two pence, Star, the six pence, and eight pence of the Laureated series of New South Wales were destroyed at Sydney in 1887, after a certain number of reprints had been printed from them. The said

plates, with each stamp on them completely defaced, were seen not only by me, but also by Dr. A. Houison and Dawson A. Vindin, of Sydney, and I have been assured by Dr. A. Houison, who saw it done, that they had later been broken in small bits and put in the melting-pot.

"(Signed) ALFRED VAN DYCK.

"7, Rue de Mogador, Paris, December 13th 1901."

## Philippine Remainders.

By HAMBURGENSIS

*From The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*

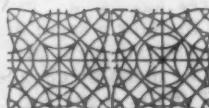
"On the 28th December, 1899, the entire stock of Philippine postage stamps was sold to the highest bidder for cash, and the firm of Edward A. Keller & Co., of Manila, became the purchasers for the sum of \$50,300" (Manila currency).

Such was the quaint announcement which prefaced a price list in May, 1900, by Fredrico C. Schenkel, up to then an unknown personality in the philatelic world. In parenthesis I may mention that the Manila dollar is worth about two shillings, and that the purchase price, therefore, amounts to, roughly speaking, £5,000. By the end of 1900, out of a stock of over 30,000,000 stamps less than 100,000 stamps were sent out, either in response to orders or by the way of consignments to the various agents; as a matter of fact, the consignment figure vastly outnumbered the number of stamps actually sold. Mr. Schenkel came to Europe, opened an office in Zurich, and tried hard to convince European dealers and collectors that buying Philippine stamps at his "moderate prices" was better than buying such every-day securities as British Consols. In a letter sent to a London export firm he mentions that this little lot was catalogued by Scott to the amount of £600,000, and would Mr. X. kindly try and find a speculative buyer to purchase the whole lot at the ridiculously low figure of one-tenth catalogue, or £60,000. He mentions incidentally that it would be an easy matter for the buyer to make, say 500 to 600 per cent. profit on the transaction! He was also willing to offer this buyer his services against a "modest commission," and even would agree, "if necessary," to allow a small discount for cash. Winding up his letter, he asked for telegraphic advice if Mr. X. could close this little deal at once. Remittances could be made by cheque on London!

Such was the position of affairs at the end of 1900. In a further letter, a week later, a detailed list of the whole lot came to hand in which the price was reduced to £39,311; Mr. Schenkel was thereupon approached with the meek inquiry whether an offer of £15,000 was any use. In the meantime enquiries were set on foot to find out the real status of these stamps, and the feeling of the philatelic market. It very soon became apparent that this little lot was by no means all. For instance, 250,000 of the 4 centavos, orange, of the last issue were in the hands of an American (non-philatelic), also a very large lot, some three or four millions, practically of all issues, and also includ-

ing many which were not contained in this stock, were in the hands of a Paris dealer, who bought them from Spanish sources before the occupation of Manila by the Americans. I have seen this lot, and, therefore, know it to be a fact. Eventually an offer of £9,000, part cash and part drafts, was made, and promptly refused. The party who made the offer intended to divide the whole parcel into 300 lots, each to contain about 100,000 stamps of all values in proportionate quantities. These lots, which would have been identically alike, were then to be offered to the Trade at, say, £40 cash, or £50 on easy payment terms spread over a year. Thus the danger of selling out some kinds and keeping on hand millions of the commoner varieties would have been avoided. However, it was not to be. Months after, an enquiry came whether an offer of £8,000 hard cash and part guarantee drafts could be obtained in London, but by this time everyone was so sick of the deal and the greediness and unbusinesslike treatment of the owners that no one was willing to entertain it at any price. Finally Mr. Schenkel came to London, evidently not believing the hopelessness of the task as described by the export firm, Messrs. X. and Co., but on his arrival was soon convinced that London was a barren ground so far as Philippine remainders were concerned. In his despair he went to Paris and sold his precious lot for about £6,500, whether for cash or not I am unable to say. It is an interesting fact that the Paris buyer was the same who offered \$50,000 at the auction, and who was outbid by Keller & Co., by their purchase price of \$50,300. A little bit of luck which the owners hardly deserved befel them in the summer of 1901. Ten of the packing cases were stored in Antwerp and 54 in Switzerland. When the wharfs were burnt down in Antwerp last year the fiery element made a thorough meal of these ten boxes. Of course the insurance company had to pay, and the figure was, I think, about £1,000. As Mr. Schenkel has stated himself, only the common varieties were burnt, this fire hardly affected the value of the whole stock.

Next month I shall give full details as to the actual numbers of stamps sold by the American Government. I may mention that some values are represented by millions ; and current catalogue prices are simply out of it.



## Auction Prices.

The 157th auction sale of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. took place on March 19th and 20th. The sale was marked by a large attendance of bidders and excellent prices. Stamps in fine condition realized in many instances large figures. We quote for the benefit of our readers prices for some of the more prominent lots :

United States : St. Louis : 1846 : 10c black on gray lilac, type III, fine,	\$106.00
lightly used,	
— 1861 : 3c scarlet; very fine, unused,	43.00
— 1867 : grill 9x13 : 90c blue, fine, o. g.,	40.00
— Department of State : \$5 black and green, fine, unused,	76.00
Confederate States : Baton Rouge : 5c green and carmine, on original cover, very fine, used,	42.00
— Mabile, Ala.: 2c black, on original cover, a little cut into at one corner, used,	23.50
— Tellico Plains, Tenn.: 5c red, nice copy, unused,	71.00
British Columbia : 1868 : perf. 11½ : \$1 green, fine, o. g.,	19.00
France : 1853-60 : 80c rose, strip of three of which the stamp at the right is tête bêche to the others, the stamp at left is very slightly cut into, used,	67.50
Great Britain : 1840 : 1p black, "V. R." in upper corners, creased, otherwise fine, unused,	41.00
Labuan : 1880 : \$1 on 16c blue, manuscript surcharge in red ink, very slightly thin at one corner, otherwise fine, o. g.,	42.00
Lagos : 1885 : 5sh blue, fine, o. g.,	20.50
— — 10sh brown violet, fine, o. g.,	51.50
Mauritius : 1848 : 2p blue on bluish, very early state of plate, very fine, used,	52.50
New Brunswick : 1851 : 1sh red violet, very fine, lightly cancelled,	57.00
— 1857 : 4p scarlet vermilion, very fine copy with large margins, on original cover, used,	31.50
Peru : 1858 : Medio peso rose, very fine, lightly used,	49.50
Philippine Islands : 1854 : 5c orange, trifling nick in lower margin, otherwise fine, used,	20.00
— — 10c carmine, very fine, o. g.,	22.00
— 1863 : 1r violet, fine, o. g.,	32.50
— — 2r blue, fine, part o. g.,	23.50
St. Vincent : 1880-81 : 5sh rose, very fine, o. g.,	55.00
— — 4p on 1sh vermilion, perfs. touch design at right, otherwise very fine, o. g.,	81.00
Saxony : 1850 : 3p red, on original cover, fine, used,	21.50
Spain : 1852 : 2r red, no margin at top, otherwise very fine, unused,	66.00
— 1853 : 2r scarlet, fine, unused,	52.50
— 1854 : bluish paper : 1r pale blue, on original cover, fine, used,	43.00
Switzerland : Basle : 1845 : 2½r black, crimson and blue, on original cover, very fine, used,	24.50
— Geneva : 1843 : 10c yellow green, unsevered pair of the double stamp, very fine, lightly used,	81.00

— Zurich : 1843 : vertical lines : 4r black, on piece of original cover, fine, used,	41.50
— Federal Administration : 1849-50 : 4c red and black, has tear but nothing gone, otherwise fine, lightly used,	48.00
Tasmania : 1853 : 1p blue, fine, lightly used,	25.00
Trinidad : Lady McLeod S. N. Co.: 1847 : 2p blue, on original cover, fine, used,	51.00
Tuscany : 1852 : 6oc brown red, on original cover, cut rather close at one corner, otherwise very fine, used,	65.25
Two Sicilies : 1860 : Arms : 3½t blue, on piece of original cover, very fine, used,	63.50

Auction sale of Messrs. Plumridge & Co, London, February 24th, 25th.  
and 26th.

The lots in this sale were exhibited at the Hotel Terminus in Paris as  
well as in London, which we believe is an innovation in the methods of hand-  
ling English stamp auctions. For the benefit of our readers we quote those  
lots which brought £5 or over:

British Guiana: first issue: 12c blue, cut round but very clear impres- sion,	\$26.25
— 1852: 4c black on blue, a very fine, lightly postmarked copy,	26.25
Buenos Aires: first issue: 4 pesos vermillion, unused, very fine, with large margins,	60.00
Cape of Good Hope: wood block: 4p deep blue, a very fine copy on piece of original,	28.75
Ceylon: first issue: imperforate: 4p, a very fine, lightly postmarked copy, with large margins on three sides but very slightly cut into on left,	60.00
— — 8p brown, very fine,	65.00
— clean cut perf. 14 to 16: 5p red brown, mint,	25.00
— 2½: perf. 14: 24c purple brown, mint,	85.00
France: first issue: 1fr orange, superb,	36.25
Reunion: 1852: 30c, superb copy with enormous margins, on original letter but uncancelled,	190.00
— — another superb copy, used on original,	140.00
Great Britain: 1884: £1 lilac brown, watermarked Orbs, mint, slightly creased,	25.00
Griqualand: 1877: 5sh orange (S. G. type 2), mint, very scarce,	28.75
Hong Kong: 96c yellow brown, mint, very fine,	41.25
Lagos: 10sh lilac brown, very fine, lightly postmarked copy,	43.00
Mauritius: Post paid: very early state of plate: 1 and 2p, superb copies with enormous margins, used on piece of original,	95.00
New Brunswick: 1sh violet, fine copy with large margins, lightly post- marked,	60.00
Newfoundland: 6½p scarlet vermillion, unused, very fine,	37.50
— 1sh orange, very fine, fair margins, lightly postmarked,	59.25
New South Wales: Sydney view: 3p emerald green, superb,	33.75
Niger Coast: 10sh in vermillion on 5p, mint,	55.00
Peru: first issue: medio peso rose, fine but slightly thinned,	30.00
Queensland: imperf.: 2p blue, very fine,	26.25
St. Vincent: 6p yellow green, clear cut perf. 15, unused with part gum, very fine,	87.50

— watermarked ♀: compound perf.: 1sh rose red, mint, very fine,	33.75
— 5sh rose red, mint,	46.25
— 4p on 1sh vermilion, superb,	43.75
Sierra Leone: ♂: perf. 14: 4p blue, mint, superb,	50.00
Switzerland: Neufchatel: 5c black and red, unused, very fine,	35.00
Tobago: watermarked ♀: £1 mauve, mint,	62.50
— ♀: 6p stone, mint,	27.50
United States: 1869: 24c green and purple, center inverted, very fine,	105.00
Confederate States: Baton Rouge: 5c green and red, on entire,	25.00

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## Charles R. Braine, Jr.

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At a meeting of the Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, held March 14th, 1902, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS we have learned with deep regret of the sudden and untimely death of Mr. Charles R. Braine, Jr., the first President of this Section; and

WHEREAS Mr. Braine, by wise counsel and determined perseverance, ably assisted in securing the establishment of this Section by the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences,—thus placing philately on a higher plane; and

WHEREAS this Section has lost a faithful and devoted worker, and its members a true and loyal friend;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

*Resolved*: That this Society offers its sincere condolences to the members of his family in the hour of their bereavement; and, further,

*Resolved*: That the Secretary be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased, and to the philatelic papers.

ATTEST : JOHN D. CARBERRY, *Secretary.*

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**BERMUDA.**—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says :

"A plate for a farthing stamp has been ordered, presumably with head of King Edward. There is, however, no likelihood of the stamp being issued at present, nor are they probably likely to reach the colony for some months."

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**BRAZIL.**—*Der Philatelist* reports the current 20 reis green on buff wrapper with the head inverted.

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**COREA.**—*Mekeels Weekly* credits to a French exchange the information that an official set of post cards, with views of the principal Corean places of note, is in preparation.

They also report a suggestion for a new series of postage stamps of larger size than the current issue, having in the center a representation of a falcon bearing on its breast the Yu Yang, a sacred symbol representing the opposites of nature—life and death, light and darkness, etc.

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**ANTIOQUIA.**—Among a lot of the recent type-set provisionals we have found several vertical pairs of the 1 cent ultramarine without perforation between the two stamps.

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**CURACAO.**—Mr. L. Lazarus has shown us the 2½c on 10c of the provisional issue of 1895 with inverted surcharge.

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**FINLAND.**—The current stamps are perforated 14x15, with the exception of the 10 marks which is perforated 14x13, but *Der Philatelist* reports a copy of the 10 pennia with the perforation 11½.

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**GREECE.**—Mr. William Thorne has shown us another value on thin paper, namely, the 3 lepta orange.

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**MALTA.**—A correspondent of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* furnishes the following description of the proposed three-penny stamp: "I have been informed that the head of the King will be in blue on a very dark green ground and enclosed in a vermillion frame. My informant goes on to say that the rest of the stamp will be in a shade of brown."

Our contemporary questions the possibility of so many colors being used for this stamp and we quite agree; it would certainly be something fearful and wonderful to behold if such a threat should be carried out.

NATAL.—Mr. A. Lyddon Austin communicates to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* the following letter from the Postmaster General of Natal, dated November 29th, 1901 :

"I have the honor to inform you that the new design of postage stamps have been ordered from England, but it cannot be said with certainty when they will be received in Natal. The values of the new issue will be from  $\frac{1}{2}d$  to £20, and will be used for postal, telegraph and revenue purposes.—(Signed) I. FRANK BROWN, Postmaster General."



PENRHYN ISLAND.—We quote from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*:

"This island, also recently annexed to New Zealand, will follow the example of Niue and issue during the year New Zealand stamps overprinted with the name of the island and the value in the language used on the island. Further particulars are expected shortly."



REUNION.—Mr. William Thorne has shown us the late provisional issues for this country—5c on 40c, 5c on 50c, 15c on 75c and 15c on 1fr—all with inverted surcharge.



RUSSIA.—The 7 kopecs of the current issue is now appearing in bright blue instead of dark blue. The paper, perforation, etc., remain unchanged.



SALVADOR.—We find in our stock a copy of the 5c of the 1900 issue, surcharged with shield and sunburst 15mm. wide, with the surcharge inverted.



Here is a little comparison of prices at a recent sale:

Orange Free State an unused pane of sixty 6d carmine containing irregular stop varieties, £50 (shade of Mount-Brown !!) compared with Buenos Ayres 3 pesos unused £4.10 and Tuscany 6o crazie £6.10.

Evident moral ! buy all the new "truck," especially if the value depends on a misplaced dot, and sell your good stamps for anything you can get.—*The Philatelic Journal of India*.





**AUSTRIA.**—Mr C. Witt has shown us a new stamp for this country, namely, a 35 heller of the current design with the numerals printed in black. The stamp has the recently introduced bands of yellow varnish.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated.

35h green and black

**COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.**—Apparently the recent surcharges from this country have been found profitable and we are accordingly blessed (?) with two more nondescripts. A correspondent has just sent us a new 5 and 10 centavos. In a general way the stamps resemble each other, having "CORREOS" at top, "CENTAVOS" at bottom, the arms of the country in the center, with "REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" curved around. The numeral of value appears below the arms on the 5c and in each lower corner on the 10c. Each stamp has as a control mark a five-pointed star stamped in red.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated 12.

5c violet

10c brown

**COOK ISLANDS.**—We have received two new stamps from these islands, or rather two stamps in new colors. They are the ½p of the bird design printed in green and the 1p Queen's head printed in carmine.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

½p blue green

1p carmine

**DUTCH INDIES.**—The *Monthly Circular* reports another value in the new type.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated.

½c violet

**GERMANY.**—We have received the new stamps with the inscription altered to "DEUTSCHES REICH". The designs are otherwise unchanged. On the sheets of the early printings of the 3 pfennig, the last stamp in the ninth row has the error "DEUTSCHE". We understand this was promptly discovered and corrected.

We are also indebted to Mr. H. Krotzsch for a copy of the current 10pf reply card. Mr. Krotzsch writes us that while this card was chronicled a long while ago, it has just been placed on sale in the post offices, having been withheld until the stock of the Eagle type was exhausted.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

2pf slate

3pf bistre brown

5pf green

10pf carmine

20pf ultramarine

25pf orange and black on yellow

30pf orange and black on salmon

40pf lake and black

50pf purple and black on salmon

80pf lake and black on rose

1mk carmine rose

2mk gray blue

3mk black violet

5mk black and carmine

**Morocco Agencies.**—A correspondent has shown us a 5c postal card

with the surcharge reading "MOROCCO AGENCY," instead of "AGENCIES".

*Postal card.*

Black surcharge.  
5c green on buff

**Chamba.**—We have received the  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 anna stamps in the current colors, surcharged in black "CHAMBA—STATE" in two lines.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Watermarked Star.  
Perforated 14.  
Black surcharge.  
 $\frac{1}{2}a$  light green  
1a carmine

**NICARAGUA.**—We have received from this country three stamps of the 1900 design but printed by lithography. The stamps which have reached us are the 5c printed in blue and in carmine and the 10c in violet. We have no explanation of the appearance of the 5c in two colors. We presume that others of the series will follow.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.  
5c blue  
5c carmine  
10c violet

**NIUE ISLAND.**—We quote from the *Montreal Philatelist*:

"We have received the following newspaper clipping from Mr. Bolitho which would seem to indicate that the new island dependencies of New Zealand are to have surcharged stamps. 'New Zealand penny universal postage stamps are now to be seen surcharged 'NIUE.' These are stated to be procurable at the Island of Niue, and have been surcharged for postal use now that the New Zealand Government has control of that place. From a philatelic point of view the

surcharge is an abomination, as the word 'NIUE' has evidently been printed with a rubber hand-stamp, and can therefore be easily forged, a contingency which it is desirable to avoid."

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated.  
Watermarked double-lined star and N. Z.  
1p carmine

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**—Mr. William Thorne has shown us a new provisional, made by surcharging the 6p black on vermillion with a new value, 4p, in red, the "6d" in black being struck out with a red bar. The surcharge is of the printing with raised periods and includes the thick "v".

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated.  
Red and black surcharge.  
4p on 6p ultramarine

**PERSIA.**—There has been another outbreak of surcharging in this country. We have received several stamps and an envelope with a new surcharge, and Mr. William Thorne has shown us other varieties. The surcharge consists of the word "PROVISOIRE", the date "1319" (which we assume to be that of the Mohammedan year) and some flourishes, all in a double-lined rectangle with an outer row of dots. The surcharge has been applied to the regular issue of 1899; to at least one other stamp of that issue, surcharged with lion and Persian characters in a rectangle; to the one kran of the 1899 issue, which has been further defaced by a second surcharge in violet across the top, "12ch" and Persian characters; and, finally, to an envelope of the 1898 issue.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.  
Black surcharge.  
1s gray on green

2s brown on green  
 5s yellow on green  
 10s pale blue on green  
 1k red  
 2k deep green  
 With additional surcharge lion and Persian characters in rectangle.  
 3s violet  
 With additional surcharge of new value.  
 12s on 1k red  
*Envelope.*  
 Black surcharge.  
 10s light blue

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Perforated 14.  
 ½p gray green  
 1p carmine

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**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—The publishers of the *P. J. G. B.* have found in their stock a specimen of the 2p orange surcharged with the tall O. S. in blue, similar to the surcharge on the 1p blue green.

*Official stamp.*

Watermarked Crown and S. A.  
 Perforated 13.  
 Blue surcharge.  
 2p orange

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**PERU.**—The *Monthly Circular* is authority for the statement that fifty thousand each of the 3 and 4 centavos postal cards have been surcharged with new values, respectively, 1 and 2 centavos.

*Postal cards.*  
 Black surcharge.  
 1c on 3c vermilion  
 2c on 4c brown

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**SPAIN.**—We are indebted to Mr. William Throne for a sight of the 15c of the current issue in a new color.

*Adhesive stamp.*  
 Perforated.  
 15c red lilac

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**TRINIDAD.**—Mr. M. D. Senior informs us that he has received the 5. shillings stamps of the 1896 type, printed in lilac and purple. This stamp has been known for some time with the surcharge "specimen" but we believe it has not hitherto been reported in regular issues.

*Adhesive stamp.*  
 Watermarked Crown and C. A.  
 Perforated.  
 5sh lilac and purple



## Changes in Catalogue Prices.

A dash (—) indicates that a price has been dropped.

UNITED STATES.			DIEGO SUARZ.		
CAT. NO.	NEW.	USED	CAT. NO.	NEW.	USED.
3040 1898	\$10.00	50	7 5c	2.50	
			8 15c	1.50	
			9 25c		50
			13 1c	75	
			15 4c	50	
			22 35c	10.00	
ANNAM AND TONKIN.			DUTCH INDIES.		
1 1888	1c on 2c	50	37 1899-1900	2½g on 2½g	1.00
2 "	1c " 4c	40			
3 "	5c " 10c	60	FRENCH OFFICES IN ZANZIBAR.		
4 "	1c " 2c	50	1403 1893	1a on 10c	12
5 "	1c " 4c	40	1407 1894	1a on 3c	4.00
6 "	5c " 10c	60	1409 "	5a on 20c	7.00
7 "	1c " 2c	4.00	1411 1896	1½a on 15c	8
8 "	1c " 4c	4.00	1412 "	2a on 20c	18
BENIN.			1413 "	3a on 30c	18
1 1892	1c	5.00	1414 "	4a on 40c	15
2 "	2c	5.00	1415 "	7½a on 75c	20.00
3 "	4c	5.00	FRENCH CONGO.		
9 "	30c	4.50	1 1886	5c on 20c	5.00
10 "	35c	5.00	4 "	50c on 15c	14.00
11 "	40c	5.00	5 "	75c on 15c	14.00
12 "	75c	5.00	7 "	15c on 1fr	10.00
13 "	1fr	5.00	20 1891	5c on 20c	5.00
14 "	1c on 5c	3.00	21 "	5c on 25c	2.00
15 "	75c on 15c	25.00	23 "	10c on 40c	6.00
17 "	40c on 15c	3.50	FRENCH GUIANA.		
18 "	75c on 15c	10.00	9 5c on 30c	20.00	
19a (new number) 1892	15c blue	5.00	GERMAN EMPIRE.		
19b (new number) 1892	25c rose		62 1900	1m	
31 1892	75c	80	63 "	2m	5
32 "	1fr	1.00	64 "	3m	10
77 1894	10c	2.50	65 "	5m	18
78 "	20c	2.50	HONG KONG.		
79 "	30c	3.00	12 1863-77	12c	20
CURAÇAO.			43 1890	20c on 30c	25
6 1873	50c	60	GUADELOUPE.		
7 "	2g 50c	3.00	13 1891	80c	7.00
9 1889	15c	50	102 1877	40c	20.00
27 1900	25c	10			20.00
28 "	1g 50c on 2g 50c	1.25			

CAT. NO.		NEW.	USED.	CAT. NO.		NEW.	USED.	
INDO CHINA.								
1	1889	5c on 35c	50	2	1885	.05c on 35c	1.00	
2	"	5c on 35c	50	12	1886	5c	12.00	
MADAGASCAR.								
6	1889-91	5c on 10c	2.00	2.00	15	1891	.15c on 30c	40
7	"	5c on 25c	1.50		35	"	1fr	14.00
12	1891	1fr	3.50	3.00	37	"	2c on 10c	10
13	"	5fr	17.00		40	1892	2c on 15c	12
27	1896	25c on 40c	10.00		52	"	10c	1.00
101	1897	5c	50		53	"	20c	50
102	"	10c	50		54	"	30c	50
103	"	20c	35		55	"	40c	60
104	"	30c	40		56	"	60c	1.00
105	"	40c	75					
106	"	50c	50					
107	"	1fr	1.00					
NEW CALEDONIA.								
1	1858	10c	7.00					
18	1892	40c	12.00					
23	"	5c	20					
NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.								
10	1893	2p	2.50					
54	1898	2sh 6p	1.25					
NORTH BORNEO.								
14	1886	½c	5.00	3.00				
15	"	10c	15.00	12.00				
NOSSI BÉ.								
8	1889	25c on 30c	10.00	10.00				
16	1890	25c on 20c	12.00	12.00				
20	"	25c on 75c	12.00	12.00				
21	"	25c on 1fr	12.00	12.00				
23	1893	25c on 20c	1.00					
24	"	50c on 10c	1.50	1.50				
29	"	15c	1.50	1.50				
30	"	20c	8.00	5.00				
31	"	20c	2.50					
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.								
18	1863	1r	12.00	7.50				
REUNION.								
23	1891	20c	30	30				
25	"	35c	60	50				
SAMOA.								
25	2½ on 2sh 6p		65					
25a	2½ on 2sh 6p		75					
				67	"	4c	10.00	
				68	"	5c	8.00	
				69	"	10c	8.00	
				70	"	15c	7.00	
				71	"	20c	5.00	
				72	"	30c	6.00	
ST. PIERRE MIQUELON.								
				39	1900	50c on 2g	3.50	
SURINAM.								
TAHITI.								

CAT. NO.		NEW.	USED.	CAT. NO.		NEW.	USED.
73	"	40c	6.00	124	1899	5c	2
74	"	60c	6.00	125	"	10c	2
75	"	1fr	7.00	126	"	25c	5
76	"	2fr	9.00	127	"	50c	12
				130	1900	5c	2
				133	"	50c	5
				136	"	5c	2
105	1893	5c	2	137	"	10c	2
108	"	50c	5	139	"	50c	4
109	"	1b	5	140	"	1b	5
110	"	5c	2	153	"	1b	8
113	"	50c	12	252	"	25c	5

VENEZUELA.

## Birmingham Philatelic Society.

February 6.—Miss E. A. Barron, Messrs. B. Tilley, V. Smith, M. R. Lyndon White, C. Pappanghelis, W. Katzaraky were unanimously elected members.

Votes of thanks were ordered to be entered on the minutes to Messrs. C. Wells and J. A. Margorches for valuable contributions to the Permanent Collection and to Messrs. H. L. Hayman, G. F. Jackson and J. Dixon for equally valuable ones to the Library.

Mr. S. Johnson then gave "Some notes on the surface printed stamps of Great Britain" and Mr. W. S. Vaughton afterwards displayed his fine collection of Ceylon.

February 27 and 28.—*Our Fourth Stamp Auction.*—This was the most successful we have held. The quality of the stamps was better, the total amount realized was higher and the interest taken in it was better than previously.

Some of the prices were very good indeed.—A mint block of 16 imperf. 1d Great Britain fetched 40sh., while a similar block of 12 with marginal inscription obtained 32sh. Great Britain £1 cross 22sh.; £1 anchor 40sh. Tasmania 1st issue 1d blue 41sh. British Columbia, C. C. 12½, 10c 26sh.; \$1 42sh.; C. C. 14, 50c 17sh.

At the meeting afterwards Messrs. H. F. Coughlan White, L. Cohen, and O. K. Trechmann were unanimously elected members and Mr. W. E. White was thanked for his present to the Library.

March 6.—Display—*Great Britain*—W. J. Steele Higgins.

Mr. C. J. Byrne was elected a member and Messrs. Clarke, of Bushey, were thanked for their donation of periodicals.

Mr. J. Steele Higgins then gave a display of his superb collection of the stamps of Great Britain, arranged in five large volumes. It not only represents a very large cash value but displays a great amount of taste in the selection and arrangement, besides an immense amount of painstaking care in making the collection so complete in fine copies of all the minor varieties. It is the first time that Mr. Higgins has shown us his collection and, although we ex-

pected to see some nice things owing to the number of medals the collection has won, it was certainly a revelation in many respects.

*March 20.*—Messrs. W. E. Loy, E. Tamsen and S. S. Kee were unanimously elected members. Messrs. W. Morley, F. C. Henderson and W. E. Loy were accorded votes of thanks for valuable donations to the Library.

It was incidentally mentioned, as showing the increasing interest in philately and in the B. P. S. that over 280 have already paid their subscriptions for the current year, which is already more than last year's record.

Mr. W. Pimm displayed his collection of Cyprus, Gibraltar and Malta. Mr. C. A. Stephenson afterwards exhibited part of his collection of unused Colonials.

The next meeting will be on May 1st when the members will consider "The Resumé of the stamps of Great Britain."

## Staten Island Philatelic Society.

The 215th meeting of the Staten Island Philatelic Society held at the Philatelic Society's room 351 Fourth avenue, on Tuesday, March 18, 1902, Vice President DeJonge opened the meeting at 9 p. m., other members present were Messrs Henry Clotz, Eugene Angell, J. L. Browne, Adolph Lienhardt and Robt. S. Lehman.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

The Executive Committee having reported favorably upon the nomination of Mr. Crawford Capen, upon ballot he was unanimously elected a regular member of the Society.

Mr. Clotz proposed for membership Mr. Eustace B. Power, of New York. The nomination was referred to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Angell moved that a vote of thanks be tendered to the Philatelic Society for its kindness in permitting the use of its rooms. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Clotz moved that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Jules Bernichon of Paris on account of the decease of his wife. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. W. Dunning of West Newton, Mass, sent a fine lot of counterfeits for the Counterfeit Album.

Mr. Philipp Kosack, of Berlin, sent a copy of his catalogue for 1902, for the Library. The thanks of the Society are tendered to the kind donors.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.05 p. m.

Next meeting on April 15th, 1902.

ROBERT S. LEHMAN, *Secretary.*

## The Collectors Club,

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The seventy-eighth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the club house on Monday evening, March 10, 1902.

Present: Messrs. Andreini, Bruner, Luff, Scott and Perrin.

Meeting called to order at 8:30 p.m. with the president in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A number of communications were read by the secretary.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Morley for a bound volume of the *Philatelic Journal* for 1901.

The treasurer's report showing a cash balance in bank of \$459.43 exclusive of \$1000 bond was accepted as read.

The committee on Dinner at Delmonico's reported that the dinner had been a success, and that all present had passed a very enjoyable evening.

The treasurer was instructed to renew lease of present building for one year more.

The report of House Committee was received and read.

The names of two applicants for membership having been posted the required length of time, they were balloted upon and Messrs. Casey A. Wood and Blair S. Williams were declared to have been unanimously elected as subscribing members.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary.*

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### COMPETITIVE EXHIBITION AT THE COLLECTORS CLUB.

#### REPORT OF THE JUDGES.

*To the Board of Governors, Collectors Club,  
New York City.*

We, the undersigned, appointed by you as a Committee to judge the competitions for the prizes donated by The American Collector's Company, beg leave to submit the following report, in regard to the first competition held March 29th.

This competition was for general collections in printed albums, and three prizes were placed at the disposal of the judges. For various reasons the competition was however so limited, that only two of the prizes can be awarded. Whether it was that the notice did not receive sufficient publicity, or that the limitation to printed albums acted as a bar, the fact remains that only two collections were submitted to the judges for competition in this contest.

However, the judges after going through both collections very carefully, decided that they were well worthy of recognition and award, as both collections were exceedingly creditable and, considering the limitation of a printed album, in every way commendable. The one collection exceeded in the number of rarities, whereas the other was rated higher on points of com-

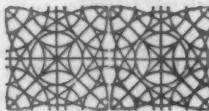
pletteness and condition, but the judges finally decided that the rarities contained in the first collection made it worthy of the first prize, and this is awarded to the owner, Mr. A. H. Scholle, while the silver medal was awarded to Mr. Henry Morgenthau.

The collections were duly exhibited at the appointed time, Saturday March 29th, at the Club, and no doubt gave pleasure and instruction to the members present.

The judges desire to call attention to the fact that through the kindness of The American Collector's Co., there will be a competition of the stamps of Japan on April 28th (exhibits to be sent to the office of J. C. Morgenthau on April 24th) and judging from the experience of the present competition, would advise that some steps be taken to give greater publicity to this competitive exhibition, so that more entries will be received.

Respectfully submitted,

P. F. BRUNER,  
J. C. MORGENTHAU,  
J. W. SCOTT.





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## MARCH BARGAINS.

Stamps marked (\*) are used.

Argentine, 1902, 12c	.10
" " 30c	.30
Cook Islands, 1902, ½p	.03
Hong Kong, 1902, 12c 	.12
India, 1901, Chamba surcharge, 3p	.02
" 1902 " " ½a	.05
" " " " 1a	.04
Nicaragua, 1902, 5c lithographed red	.08
" " 10c "	.15
Roumania, 1902, 1b	.02
South Australia, 1901, 1sh	.45
" " " 2sh	.80
Tasmania, 1902, 1p	.05
" " 2p	.08
Tunis, 1902, 35c	.15
" " 2fr	.75
*Venezuela, 1900, 1b, No. 153	.08

## GREECE.—A FEW SPECIALTIES.

*No. 10a, 40l red violet	.50
No. 12b, 2l bistre (cleaned plate)	.50
No. 22b, 80l carmine " "	4.00
No. 27, 40l brown	1.00
No. 47c, 40l violet	1.45
No. 121a, 5dr on 40l, thin paper	5.00
No. 131a, 5dr on 40l " " perf.	5.00
No. 142, 5l an 1dr (Olympian)	.10
" A. M." surcharge, head type 134 to 141, set 8	6.50

10 per cent. discount on single stamps.